

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, KMCO Explosion and Fire, Crosby, TX (NRC# 1241683 and # 1241698) – Update #3
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 10:49:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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EOC Spot Report: Region 6, KMCO Explosion and Fire, Crosby, TX (NRC# 1241683 and # 1241698) – Update #3

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of April 5, 2019 1145 EDT

Overview: On April 2, 2019, Region 6 was notified about a fire and explosion at the KMCO Crosby, Texas chemical facility. The fire started around noon and was put out by 4 p.m. KMCO is a specialty chemical manufacturer that produces custom chemical blends. Their Risk Management Plan (RMP) indicates they have several RMP regulated substances. Some flammables and toxics include ethyl chloride, ethylene oxide, sulfur dioxide, formaldehyde, ammonia, propylene oxide, and isobutylene (2-methylpropene). News outlets reported that isobutylene started the explosion/fire, and that employees had difficulty evacuating because exit gates were locked. There were two injuries and one death. Four schools in the area were locked down and sheltered in place. KMCO plans to maintain a fire fighting company on-site through the initial stages of product cleanup. KMCO continues to remove firefighting runoff water along the drainage ditch (West of the intersection of Crosby Dayton Rd / Ramsey Rd - North side of Crosby Dayton). Rainfall is expected Saturday, April 6, 2019. The facility remains shut down.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: Crosby Fire Department and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) responded. Two Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) personnel also reported to the site. EPA, TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Service, and KMCO's contractor conducted air monitoring with no detections for VOCs. The Harris County Fire Marshall's Office (FMO) states that they have completed the fire investigation and will be turning the facility back to KMCO for cleanup operations on April 5, 2019. The FMO requested that EPA conduct one more night of community air monitoring (night of April 4), in addition to the KMCO contractor air monitoring, until operations transfer to cleanup activities on April 5, 2019.

EPA Actions: Two Region 6 OSCs are onsite. ASPECT was activated and conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the EPA Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Minimal Risk Levels (MRL). ASPECT detected ammonia at approximately 1 ppm, which is less than the AEGL-1 level of 30 ppm and the acute ATSDR MRL of 1.7 ppm. ASPECT also detected isobutylene.

EPA conducted handheld air monitoring in the surrounding community and schools. The air monitoring teams did not detect any readings above background. The EPA and KMCO

contractor continue community air monitoring activities on a 24-hour basis. Both contractors detected minimal concentrations of VOCs (0.1 ppm) in front of the facility on April 4, 2018, which was due to the removal of the foam blanket for FMO investigative activities. No readings were detected in other off-site areas.

On April 3, 2019, TAGA and ASPECT completed their final runs at the site.

Media Interest: Local

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/KMCO-fire-probe-stretches-Harris-County-resources-13739786.php>

<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Crosby-chemical-fire-to-be-investigated-by-U-S-13737843.php>

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/What-we-know-about-KMCO-owners-of-the-Crosby-13735478.php>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed
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